RANKED CHOICE VOTING

TABULATION WORKSHOP TOOLKIT SINGLE-WINNER RACE





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TABULATION WORKSHOP TOOLKIT

About this Toolkit

This Toolkit is a guide for community members to conduct workshops to help explain ranked choice voting tabulation. The Toolkit is specifically designed for contests where 1 candidate wins. Using this Toolkit, a workshop facilitator can lead participants through a hand tally of a pre-marked deck of ranked choice ballots.

The facilitator should have a strong understanding of ranked choice voting tabulation and be able to explain terms like election threshold and skipped ranking. Participants should have a basic understanding of what ranked choice voting is and how to mark a ballot.

The workshop is designed to be run with small groups of 1 to 10 participants and takes 15 to 20 minutes to complete. It is ideally suited for fairs or farmer markets.

Activity Summary (1-10 Participants)

Participants will hand tally a pre-marked deck of ranked choice ballots.

Learning Objectives

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how ranked choice voting ballots are tabulated.

Supplies Needed

Included in Toolkit:

- Pre-marked ballots (24 total)
- 5 candidate tent labels
- RCV Formulas & Terms Sheet
- Blank Tally Sheet

Not Included in Toolkit:

- Calculator
- Small dry erase/chalk board
- Dry erase markers/chalk/pens

THE BASICS

Background information for facilitator.

What is Ranked Choice Voting?

Ranked choice voting (RCV) is a voting method in which voters rank candidates in order of preference (1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice). Ranking multiple candidates allows you to still have a choice in who gets elected even if your top choice candidate does not win.

Why is Arlington Implementing Ranked Choice Voting?

The Virginia General Assembly passed a bill to amend Code of Virginia § 24.2-673.1 in July 2020 to allow localities to implement ranked choice voting in elections of members of a county board of supervisors or a city council. In fall 2021, the Arlington Electoral Board conducted public engagement with a Q&A session, a "mock election," and held a joint work session with the County Board to discuss this method of voting. In December 2022, the Arlington County Board adopted the use of ranked choice voting for the June 20, 2023 County Board primary election, making Arlington the first locality in Virginia to implement ranked choice voting. In December 2023, the Arlington County Board adopted the use of ranked choice voting in all future County Board primary elections.

How RCV Ballots are Counted

All 1st choice votes are counted. If no candidate receives the required number of votes to win, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and ballots for that candidate are transferred to the voter's next choice. This process continues until a candidate has enough votes to win.

If your 1st choice candidate is eliminated, your vote is transferred to your 2nd choice candidate. If your 2nd choice candidate is eliminated, your vote is then transferred to your 3rd choice candidate.

The number of votes needed to win, also called the election threshold, is determined using a formula as per Virginia Administrative Code 1VAC20-100-10. When a single seat is open, this means that a candidate must receive more than 50% of the votes. (Total number of votes cast is divided by 2 (1 seat + 1) or 1/2 of the votes). Once a candidate receives 50% of the votes, tabulation ends.

SET UP

Set up five candidate tent signs to help sort ballots. Place the signs in the order they appear on the ballot.

Prepare the Tally Sheet (page 8) or dry erase or chalk board.

Provide copies of RCV Formulas & Term Sheets (page 11) to participants.

Assign Roles. Depending on the number of participants, some might be asked to do all or 1 role.

- 1. Caller Calls out how ballots are marked and distributes them to counters.
- 2. Counter Assigned to one or more flavors. Receives ballots from caller. Counts ballots marked for their flavor.
- 3. Recorder Records the number of ballots for each flavor as ballots are tabulated across rounds on the Tally Sheet.

RUNNING THE WORKSHOP

Facilitators can read prompts in gray boxes.

Arlington County implemented Ranked Choice Voting for its County Board Race in the June 20, 2023 Democratic Primary for the first time. In December 2023, the Arlington County Board approved the use of Ranked Choice Voting in all future County Board primary elections.

Together, we're going to hand tally a stack of ballots so we can see how ranked choice ballots are counted in a single-winner RCV election.

Ranked Choice Voting is tabulated in rounds – with 1st choice votes counted first. 2nd and 3rd choice votes are only counted if a 1st choice candidate is eliminated. Before we can begin tabulating the results, we first need to calculate the election threshold, which is the total number of votes needed to win.*

Using the RCV formula sheet, let's calculate the election threshold needed to win a 1-winner RCV race.

First, the group should count the total number of ballots in the deck.

There should be 24 total ballots in the deck.

Next, using the RCV formula sheet the group should calculate the election threshold.

• Election Threshold = 13

^{*}Virginia Administrative Code 1VAC20-100-10

Now that we know how many votes are needed to be elected, we can start counting the ballots by sorting them into the corresponding candidate stacks.

Remember, we count 1st choice rankings FIRST!

Group should now sort ballots into the appropriate candidate stacks based on the candidate ranked in the first rank column.

Now that all of the 1st choice rankings have been sorted into their stack, lets count the ballots in each stack and tally how many votes each candidate has.

Group should count the number of ballots in each stack and the participants keeping track of the tally should write the vote totals for each candidate under the Round 1 column on the tally sheet. If you're working with a large group, you can assign each participant a candidate to tally.

Correct totals can be verified using the Results Sheet (page 8).

Now that we've counted all the votes for each candidate – has any candidate reached the threshold required to win?

If no candidate has reached the required threshold of votes, we need to eliminate the candidate with the least number of votes and redistribute those ballots to the next ranked candidate.

Also, keep an eye out for ballots that may have a skipped ranking. These ballots may still count!

Have participants determine which candidate should be eliminated and where the 2nd ranked votes from the eliminated candidate will be redistributed.

Now, let's count the stacks of ballots again and see if a candidate has reached the threshold to win. If no candidate has reached the threshold, we'll eliminate the candidate with the least number of votes.

This process should be repeated until a candidate reaches or exceeds the election threshold, making the candidate the winner!

Tally Sheet

Election Threshold:_____

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
Sugar Cookies				
Praline Blondies				
Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies				
Sticky Toffee Pudding				
Brownies				

Results

Election Threshold: 13

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
Sugar Cookies	4	4	4	
Praline Blondies	6	8	10	13
Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies	9	9	10	11
Sticky Toffee Pudding	3	3		
Brownies	2			

Sugar Cookie

Sugar Cookies

Praline Blondies

Praline Blondies

Oatmeal Chocolate Seiston Cookies

Oatmeal Chocolate
Chip Cookies

Sticky Toffee Pudding

Sticky Toffee Pudding

Brownies

Brownies

Election Threshold =

(rounded down to a whole number)

of ballots cast for office

of candidates to be elected + 1

+

Skipped Ranking

A voter has left a ranking unassigned but ranks a candidate at a subsequent ranking.

Rank up to 3 candidates.

Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.

Candidate B
Candidate Candidate D
Candidate D
Candidate D
Candidate D
Candidate D
Candidate D

Active Candidate

Candidate who has not been defeated during a round-by-round vote count.

Active Ballot

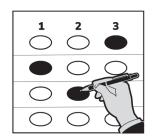
Ballot that counts toward an active candidate in the current round of counting.

Inactive Ballot

Ballot that can no longer be counted due to the ballot having no active candidates in the round.

Ranked Choice Voting Instructions

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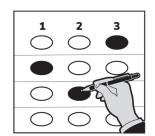


Arlington's Favorite Sweet Treat One treat will win.			
Mark no more than 1 oval in each			
	1	2	3
Sugar Cookie			
Praline Blondies		0	
Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookie			
Sticky Toffee Pudding	0		
Brownies	0	0	•



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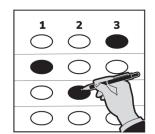


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Wark no more than 1 oval in each o	1	2	3
Sugar Cookie			0
Praline Blondies	0	0	•
Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookie		•	
Sticky Toffee Pudding	•		
Brownies			



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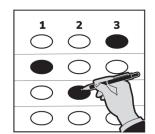


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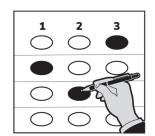


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Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookie	•		
Sticky Toffee Pudding			
Brownies		0	



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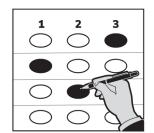


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Wark no more than 1 oval in each c	1	2	3
Sugar Cookie			0
Praline Blondies	0	0	0
Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookie	•		
Sticky Toffee Pudding	0	0	•
Brownies	0	•	0



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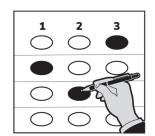


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Brownies			0



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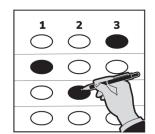


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Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookie			
Sticky Toffee Pudding	0	•	0
Brownies		0	



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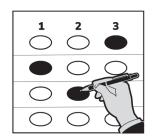


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Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookie	•		
Sticky Toffee Pudding			•
Brownies		0	



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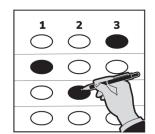


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Sugar Cookie			0
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Sticky Toffee Pudding			
Brownies			•



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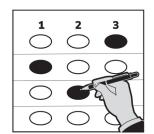


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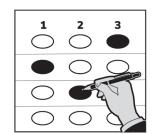


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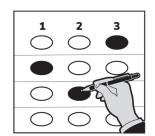


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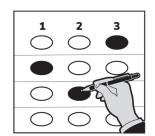


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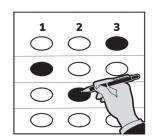


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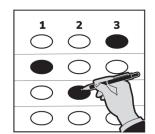


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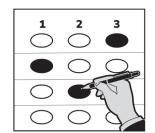


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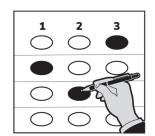


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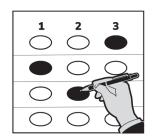


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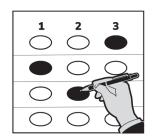


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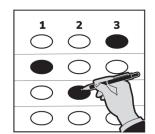


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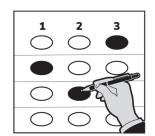


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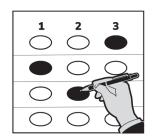


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- To select a 2nd choice, fill in the oval under the number 2 to the right of the candidate's name.
- To select a 3rd choice, fill in the oval under the number 3 to the right of the candidate's name.

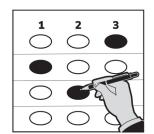


Arlington's Favorite Sweet Treat One treat will win.	olum	2	
Mark no more than 1 oval in each o	1	2	3
Sugar Cookie			0
Praline Blondies	•		
Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookie			
Sticky Toffee Pudding		•	
Brownies			•



Ranked Choice Voting Instructions

- Rank up to 3 candidates in the order of your choice.
- Select your 1st choice by filling in the oval under the number 1 to the right of the candidate's name.
- To select a 2nd choice, fill in the oval under the number 2 to the right of the candidate's name.
- To select a 3rd choice, fill in the oval under the number 3 to the right of the candidate's name.



Arlington's Favorite Sweet Treat One treat will win. Mark no more than 1 oval in each of	colum	n	
Wark no more than 1 ovarin each o	1	2	3
Sugar Cookie			0
Praline Blondies			
Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookie			
Sticky Toffee Pudding	0	•	
Brownies	0		

